IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with strikethrough. When strikethrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 1, 5-9, 13-17, and 21-24 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for supporting a trading of an odd lot that is less than a round lot stock number determined in every stock company, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving from a customer[[,]] an odd lot selling order or an odd lot buying order for a particular stock company;

judging whether or not a number of total stocks of said odd lot selling orders or a number of total stocks of said odd lot buying orders received at said receiving step is over a threshold value that is less than said round lot stock number and is determined by a predetermined rule; and

if it is judged at said judging step that the number of total stocks of said odd lot selling orders or the number of total stocks of said odd lot buying orders is over said threshold, outputting a selling order of said round lot stock number defined for said particular stock company for said odd lot selling orders or a buying order of said round lot stock number defined for said particular stock company for said odd lot buying orders.

2. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein said predetermined rule is a rule in which a trading fee of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders is equal to or higher than a risk amount for a stock number which is a difference between said round lot stock number and said threshold.

3. (Original) The method set forth in claim 2, wherein said risk amount is determined by a limited price range or a price itself.

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4. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein said predetermined rule is a rule based on a trading volume of stocks of said particular stock company during a predetermined period.

5. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

judging whether or not said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders that are received at said receiving step is over said round lot stock number of said particular stock company;

if it is judged at said second judging step that said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders is over said round lot stock number, providing a minimum number of ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order; and

providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing step from said round lot stock number[[,]] to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

6. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

judging whether or not said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders that are received at said receiving step is over said round lot stock number of said particular stock company;

if it is judged at said second judging step that said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders is over said round lot stock number, judging whether or not it is possible to provide a minimum number of ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order;

if it is judged at said third judging step that it is impossible to provide, providing one stock to said each customer; and

providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing step from said round lot stock number[[,]] to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for supporting a trading of an odd lot that is less than a round lot stock number determined in every stock company, said method comprising the steps of:

judging whether or not a number of total stocks of odd lot buying orders or a number of total stocks of odd lot selling orders that are received from customers is over said round lot stock number of said particular stock company;

if it is judged at said judging step that said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders is over said round lot stock number, judging whether or not it is possible to provide a minimum number of ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order;

if it is judged at said second judging step that it is possible to provide, providing said minimum number of said ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to said each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order; and

providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing step from said round lot stock number[[,]] to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

8. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

if it is judged at said second judging step that it is impossible to provide, providing one stock to said each customer; and

providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing step from said round lot stock number[[,]] to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

9. (Currently Amended) A storage medium for storing a program for causing a computer to support a trading of an odd lot that is less than a round lot stock number determined in every stock company, said program comprising the steps of:

receiving from a customer[[,]] an odd lot selling order or an odd lot buying order for a particular stock company;

judging whether or not a number of total stocks of said odd lot selling orders or a number of total stocks of said odd lot buying orders received at said receiving step is over a threshold

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value that is less than said round lot stock number and is determined by a predetermined rule; and

if it is judged at said judging ~~step~~ that the number of total stocks of said odd lot selling orders or the number of total stocks of said odd lot buying orders is over said threshold, outputting a selling order of said round lot stock number defined for said particular stock company for said odd lot selling orders or a buying order of said round lot stock number defined for said particular stock company for said odd lot buying orders.

10. (Original) The storage medium set forth in claim 9, wherein the predetermined rule is a rule in which a trading fee of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders is equal to or higher than a risk amount for a stock number which is a difference between said round lot stock number and said threshold.

11. (Original) The storage medium set forth in claim 10, wherein said risk amount is determined by a limited price range or a price itself.

12. (Original) The storage medium set forth in claim 9, wherein said predetermined rule is a rule based on a trading volume of stocks of said particular stock company during a predetermined period.

13. (Currently Amended) The storage medium set forth in claim 9, said program further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

judging whether or not said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders that are received at said receiving ~~step~~ is over said round lot stock number of said particular stock company;

if it is judged at said second judging ~~step~~ that said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders is over said round lot stock number, providing a minimum number of ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order; and

providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing ~~step~~ from said round lot stock number[[,]] to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

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14. (Currently Amended) The storage medium set forth in claim 9, said program further comprising the steps of:

judging whether or not said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders that are received at said receiving step is over said round lot stock number of said particular stock company;

if it is judged at said second judging step that said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders is over said round lot stock number, judging whether or not it is possible to provide a minimum number of ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order;

if it is judged at said third judging step that it is impossible to provide, providing one stock to said each customer; and

providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing step from said round lot stock number[[,]] to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

15. (Currently Amended) A storage medium for storing a program for causing a computer to support a trading of an odd lot that is less than a round lot stock number determined in every stock company, said program comprising the steps of:

judging whether or not a number of total stocks of odd lot buying orders or a number of total stocks of odd lot selling orders that are received from customers is over said round lot stock number of said particular stock company;

if it is judged at said judging step that said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders is over said round lot stock number, judging whether or not it is possible to provide a minimum number of ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order;

if it is judged at said second judging step that it is possible to provide, providing said minimum number of said ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to said each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order; and

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providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing step from said round lot stock number[[,]] to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

16. (Currently Amended) The storage medium set forth in claim 15, said program further comprising the steps of:

if it is judged at said second judging step that it is impossible to provide, providing one stock to said each customer; and

providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing step from said round lot stock number[[,]] to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for supporting a trading of an odd lot that is less than a round lot stock number determined in every stock company, comprising:

means for receiving from a customer[[,]] an odd lot selling order or an odd lot buying order for a particular stock company;

means for judging whether or not a number of total stocks of said odd lot selling orders or a number of total stocks of said odd lot buying orders received by said means for receiving is over a threshold value that is less than said round lot stock number and is determined by a predetermined rule; and

means for outputting a selling order of said round lot stock number defined for said particular stock company for said odd lot selling orders or a buying order of said round lot stock number defined for said particular stock company for said odd lot buying orders if it is judged by said means for judging that the number of total stocks of said odd lot selling orders or the number of total stocks of said odd lot buying orders is over said threshold.

18. (Original) The system set forth in claim 17, wherein said predetermined rule is a rule in which a trading fee of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders is equal to or higher than a risk amount for a stock number which is a difference between said round lot stock number and said threshold.

19. (Original) The system set forth in claim 18, wherein said risk amount is determined by a limited price range or a price itself.

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20. (Original) The system set forth in claim 17, wherein said predetermined rule is a rule based on a trading volume of stocks of said particular stock company during a predetermined period.

21. (Currently Amended) The system set forth in claim 18, further comprising:

second judging means for judging whether or not said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders that are received by said means for receiving is over said round lot stock number of said particular stock company;

first providing means for providing a minimum number of ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order if it is judged by said second judging means that said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders is over said round lot stock number[[,]]; and

second providing means for providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided by said first providing means from said round lot stock number[[,]] to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

22. (Currently Amended) The system set forth in claim 17, further comprising:

second judging means for judging whether or not said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders that are received by said means for receiving is over said round lot stock number of said particular stock company;

third judging means for judging whether or not it is possible to provide a minimum number of ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order if it is judged by said second judging means that said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders is over said round lot stock number;

first providing means for providing one stock to said each customer if it is judged at said third judging means that it is impossible to provide; and

second providing means for providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided by said first providing means from said round lot

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stock number[[,]] to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for supporting a trading of an odd lot that is less than a round lot stock number determined in every stock company, comprising:

first judging means for judging whether or not a number of total stocks of odd lot buying orders or a number of total stocks of odd lot selling orders that are received from customers is over said round lot stock number of said particular stock company;

second means for judging whether or not it is possible to provide a minimum number of ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order if it is judged by said first judging means that said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders is over said round lot stock number;

first providing means for providing said minimum number of said ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to said each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order if it is judged by said second judging means that it is possible to provide; and

second providing means for providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing step from said round lot stock number[[,]] to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

24. (Currently Amended) The system set forth in claim 23, further comprising:

third providing means for providing one stock to said each customer if it is judged by said second judging means that it is impossible to provide; and

forthfourth providing means for providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing step from said round lot stock number[[,]] to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.